

Nomenclatural Notes on Two Frogs from South-Eastern Australia

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Pseudophryne dendyi Lucas, 1892 was described from a single specimen, now lost (Coventry, 1970), from the Wellington River in north Gippsland. The taxonomic status of this species is unclear (Moore, 1961, Barker & Grigg, 1977, Cogger, 1986). In view of this uncertainty and the lack of type material, it is worth drawing attention to an account of the collection of the holotype by Howitt, Lucas & Dendy (1891). In a narrative of their expedition to Lake Nigothoruk (now Lake Tali Karng) and Mt. Wellington, they note that a single specimen of "a new handsome black and yellow frog" was collected on 26 December 1890, from under a log along the river edge, near their campsite on a grassy flat "near the junction of the two branches of the upper Wellington [River]". From the description of their route, this site appears to be at grid reference 469370 on map SJ 55-6 Warburton (Australian 1:250 000 topographic map series), in approximately 37°32'S 146°43'E, just downstream of the junction of the Carey and Wellington Rivers. At this locality, "the river flows from side to side of a broad, flat-bottomed valley, bordered by moderately steep grassy slopes. The level land is thickly timbered with *Eucalyptus amygdalina*, *E. viminalis* (mountain variety) and is probably flooded at times." It is stated "the frog will be described elsewhere, by Mr. Lucas, as *Limnodynastes nigro-lutea*". Lucas apparently subsequently changed his mind, for this specimen, the only frog apart from *Litoria lesueurii* collected during the expedition, is clearly the holotype of *Pseudophryne dendyi*. The name *Limnodynastes nigro-lutea* Hewitt, Lucas & Dendy, 1891 is a *nomen nudum* (unless "handsome black

and yellow frog" be counted as sufficient description), and appears only there and in a list of exhibits accompanying the presentation of the paper at a Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria meeting (Anon, 1891).

Three other names are proposed by Howitt *et al.* (1891): the galaxiid fish *Galaxias nigothoruk*, the crayfish *Astacopsis serratus* var. *wellingtonensis*, and the planarian *Geoplana howitti*. The latter two names as published by Howitt *et al.* (1891) and listed by Anon (1891) are *nomina nuda*, although *G. howitti* was formally described by Dendy (1891). A brief description accompanies the name *Galaxias nigothoruk*, subsequently formally described by Lucas (1892b). Anon (1891) lists this species as *Galaxias lacustris*, another *nomen nudum*.

Litoria burrowsi Scott, 1942, the only endemic Tasmanian hyliid frog, was named for Miss M. Burrows, collector of the type series, by Scott (1942) (see also Hewer, 1965; Martin & Littlejohn, 1982). Under Articles 31(a)(ii) and 32(c-d) of the Code of Zoological Nomenclature, the specific epithet is therefore emended to the feminine form as *burrowsae*. Tyler & Lungershausen (1986) erroneously state that *Litoria spenceri* Dubois, 1984 is a replacement name for *L. burrowsae*. Rather, *L. spenceri* is a replacement name for *L. maculata* Spencer, 1901. The species referred to as *L. spenceri* by Tyler & Lungershausen (1986) is *L. burrowsae* (M. Tyler, *in litt.*).

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Gordon William Beaton (1911 – 1988): An amateur mycologist with an international reputation.

Gordon Beaton was born in Lismore, western Victoria, near to where his father managed a sheep station, and Gordon attended the Noorat School. He worked first in Terang, then in a partnership at Cobden. Finally, in 1960, he established his own firm, Beaton & Son – an automotive engineering business which also serviced agricultural machinery, in Camperdown. He married Katrine in 1935, and is survived by his wife, two sons and four grandchildren. Gordon was a prominent rifle shot who was selected three times for the Victorian team. He won the grand championship in 1949 and was second in The King's Prize. He had also excelled at cricket, bowls and billiards.

While engaged in rifle shooting he made friends with the late Herbert T. Reeves, a naturalist, photographer and illustrator. Herb. specialised in hand-colouring black and white photographs of flowers, and his excellent illustrations are to be found in books by Thistle Harris and in E.E. Lord's *Shrubs and Trees for Australian Gardens*. Gordon and Katrine ventured into photography too, but Gordon found the flowers to be rather frustrating because they would not stay quite still, so he turned his attention to fungi, particularly the small cup-fungi that he observed growing along bush tracks. He needed to name his finds, so he sought help from Dr Ethel McLennan, Associate Professor of Botany at the University of Melbourne, and from Dr Jim Willis, Assistant Government Botanist at the National Herbarium. Many of these fungi were known only at the generic level, the species being still undetermined and often undescribed. It had been assumed that species were generally much the same as similar forms overseas. Microscopic study was needed to name them accurately. Dr McLennan had suggested that Gordon contact Dr Dennis, chief mycologist at Kew Herbarium, England. Gordon purchased a good modern microscope which he kept in perfect order, available texts and, with advice from Dr Dennis, began to study these small Discomycetes. This became his major interest when, at 62 years he and Katrine retired to live at Eildon. For a while Gordon sent his specimens, microscope slide-preparations and descriptions to Kew, England, for others to publish. Recently (1987) B.M. Spooner's text has been published for Australasian species; it was largely based on Gordon's collections.

In 1975 I began to help Gordon publish his own work – although he continued to send to Kew collections of those fungi which belonged to large groups and whose identification was beyond his ken. Gordon collected, prepared and identified his own material, made the drawings and wrote the diagnoses and descriptions. On this basis I organised the paper and had the diagnoses translated into Latin, usually by George Scott (then on the staff of Monash School of Botany). I gathered the references and wrote up the paper. Nearly all were published in the *Transactions of the British Mycological Society*, but some appeared in the *Victorian Naturalist*.